according approvals for genetically modified organisms. For evaluating the effect of Bt cotton, feeding experiments on poultry, fish, cows and buffaloes were conducted at National Dairy Research Institute (NDRI), Karnal on lactating cows; Department of Animal Nutrition, College of Veterinary Sciences, G.B. Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar on lactating buffaloes; Central Avian Research Institute (CARI), Izzatnagar on poultry; and Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE), Mumbai on fish. These studies showed that the Bt cotton seed meal is nutritionally equivalent to and as wholesome and safe as, the non-Bt cotton seed meal. Studies conducted on refined oil obtained from Bt cotton seed have indicated that the refined oil did not show any detectable presence of Bt protein or DNA.

Green Belt programme for pollution abatement

3375. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently launched a new programme, namely Green Belt, for abatement of pollution and environment improvement in selected cities/towns, with a view to reduce adverse effects of air, water and noise pollution;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cities/towns selected under the programme, State-wise, particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) what are the guidelines/parameters for selection of various cities/ towns under the programme; and

(e) the total amount earmarked and spent under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (e) The Government have undertaken a pilot project on Green Belt for Abatement of Pollution and Environmental Improvement to reduce the adverse effects of air, water and noise pollution in five cities/towns of Tamil Nadu *viz.* Chennai, Coimbatore, Madurai, Salem and Tirunelveli. The project involved raising and planting 294000 saplings in the five cities/towns at a total cost of Rs. 4.557 crores of which Rs. 4.00 crores was funded by Government of India and Rs. 0.557 crores by Government of Tamil Nadu. Similar proposals have been invited from other States also.